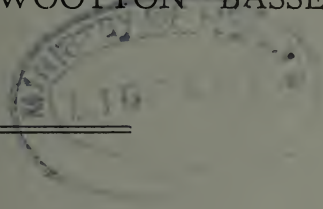


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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
CRICKLADE & WOOTTON BASSETT



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Senior Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District of :—

CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953 on the state of the public health of the District together with that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

Details of the incidence of Infectious Diseases notified will be found in the body of the Report, and it is interesting to note that once again no case of Diphtheria occurred, the last being in 1948. On the other hand, an outbreak of Measles assumed epidemic proportions in keeping with the general increase throughout the country of a biennial nature—fortunately, few complications arose. Compared with the serious overall increase, only three cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, none of which was fatal. Only two cases of Food Poisoning were recorded.

The Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer briefly summarizes a large and increasing volume of work. Progress in connection with the Council's Housing Schemes continues satisfactorily to all concerned.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation and thanks for the wholehearted co-operation and assistance from the staff and also from other Departments of your Council.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. McELROY.


Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1954.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introductory Letter	1
Staff	4
General Statistics	5
Extracts from Vital Statistics	5
Live Births	5
Still Births	5
Infant Mortality	6
Deaths from Cancer	6
Causes of Death	7
Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease	8
Distribution in Parishes	9
Analysis under Age Groups	10
Infectious Diseases—Comments	10
Tuberculosis—New Cases and Deaths	11
Housing of Tuberculosis Patients	12
General Provision of the Health Services for the District	12
Diphtheria Immunisation	13
Vaccination	13

**CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1953-4**

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
HERBERT JOHN EVELEIGH

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
ALFRED JOB WOOLFORD

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
W. J. HOSIER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
All the Members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN
S. G. HUBAND

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE
All the Members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN
HERBERT JOHN EVELEIGH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT

31st December, 1953

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

R. S. McELROY, B.A., M.B., B. Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.
also Medical Officer of Health Highworth Rural District Council,
Assistant County and School Medical Officer, Wiltshire County
Council

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

C. E. JAMES, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

T. L. COX, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANT TO SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

S. MORELAND

RODENT OPERATOR

W. H. BUCKLAND

CLERICAL STAFF

MISS M. SIMPKINS

Miss E. M. Pocock (Services shared with Highworth Rural District
Council and Wiltshire County Council).

COUNCIL OFFICES

**Manor House,
Wootton Bassett,
Wilts.**

OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**Highworth Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
Bath Road, Swindon, Wilts.**

TELEPHONE—

Wootton Bassett 458/9, 450

**TELEPHONE—Swindon 4847.
(House—Wroughton 231).**

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District	45,911 acres
Number of Parishes	14
Estimated Population (including service personnel)	15,540
Number of inhabited houses (permanent)	4,261
Rateable Value	£76,528
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£295

Population : The estimated population of 15,540 shows an increase of 80 compared with 1952.

Number of inhabited houses: The figure of 4,261 shows an increase of 213 over the previous year, this increase includes the number of houses erected by the Air Ministry.

New houses erected in 1953:

By Local Authority	80
By Private Enterprise	15

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	151	167	318
Illegitimate	12	4	16
Total number of live births ..	163	171	334

Live birth rate per 1000 population (corrected)	24.3
Live birth rate for England and Wales	15.5
Comparability factor for the District	1.17

Still Births:

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	4	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of still births ..	—	4	4

Deaths:

Deaths from all causes in the area	162
Death rate per 1000 population (corrected)	11.6
Death rate for England and Wales	11.4
Comparability factor for England and Wales	1.06

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths	8	2	10

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths	3	1	4

Infant Death Rate :

Number of infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 live births	21.1
Infant death rate for England and Wales	26.8

Deaths from Cancer during 1953

Age	Site				
	Lungs	Stomach	Breast	Other	Total
40-50 years ..	1	—	—	3	4
51-60 years ..	—	—	1	2	3
61-70 years ..	1	2	1	4	8
71-80 years ..	1	1	—	9	11
81-90 years ..	—	—	—	6	6
Total ..	3	3	2	24	32

CAUSES OF DEATH

						Male	Female
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..					1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..				2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..					5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..			—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..			—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..					13	4
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..				12	10
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..			19	7
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..				3	1
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..		1	12
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..			2	4
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	6	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..				1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..				2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..			3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..				—	1
Congenital malformations	..	..	..			3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..					5	9
Motor Vehicle accidents	..	..	..			1	—
All other accidents	..	..	..	..		6	2
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
						—	—
Total, all causes	..	..	..	..		95	67
						—	—

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during 1953 as compared with 1951 and 1952.

Disease	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever	12	23	5
Whooping Cough	15	78	25
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	126	12	194
Pneumonia	3	1	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	3
Chickenpox	—	1	3
Malaria	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	3
Food Poisoning	94	9	2
Undulant Fever	—	1	1
Total	257	129	244

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

	Ashton Keynes	Braydon	Broad Town	Clyffe Pyard	Cricklade	Latton	Leigh	Lydiard Millicent	Lydiard Tregoeze	Lynham	Marston Meysey	Purton	Tockenham	Wootton Bassett	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria
Measles
Pneumonia
Meningococcal Infection
Dysentery
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Puerperal Pyrexia
Smallpox
Paratyphoid Fever
Enteric or Typhoid Fever
Erysipelas
Chickenpox
Malaria
Polio-myelitis
Food Poisoning
Undulant Fever
Total	18	—	4	1	29	2	2	5	—	13	3	6	—	161	244

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-35 years	35-65 years	Unknown age	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	5
Whooping Cough ..	1	13	11	—	—	—	—	25
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2	81	104	3	1	—	3	194
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	5
Meningococcal Infect.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Ophthalmia								
Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Chickenpox	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	3
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Undulant Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	4	95	120	6	8	8	3	244

Scarlet Fever

Compared with 1952 the incidence showed a marked decline from 23 to 5 cases; the disease was of a mild nature and without complications.

Whooping Cough

Of the 25 cases listed, 13 occurred in the 1-5 years age group and 11 in the 5-15 years age group. The incidence was less than one third of that for 1952.

Diphtheria

No cases have occurred for a number of years.

Measles

A marked increase to epidemic proportions totalling 194 cases took place. This was in keeping with the country wide picture and the disease appears to have established a biennial periodicity.

Dysentery

Only 2 cases were notified, in neither were any specific organisms isolated.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

1 case occurred in Wootton Bassett Parish.

Poliomyelitis

Although the general incidence throughout England and Wales rose sharply only 3 cases came to light. One of the cases of the non-paralytic variety occurred in an adult woman; the remaining 2 occurred in children and were of the paralytic type with complete recovery in one and unfortunately, only partial recovery in the other.

Food Poisoning

Only 2 cases in Wootton Bassett Parish were recorded and no specific organisms were isolated.

Undulant Fever

One adult case occurred in a member of the Royal Air Force stationed at Lyneham but infection was unlikely to have occurred in this District.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

Year			No. of Cases
1953	..	..	32
1952	..	..	15
1951	..	..	15
1950	..	..	9

Distribution of new cases and deaths according to age and sex is as follows :—

Age	New cases Male	Male Deaths	New cases Female	Female Deaths	Total	
					New cases	Deaths
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years ..	2	—	1	—	3	—
15-25 years ..	6	—	5	—	11	—
25-35 years ..	3	—	5	—	8	—
35-45 years ..	3	—	—	—	3	—
45-55 years ..	1	—	1	—	2	—
55-65 years ..	2	—	1	—	3	—
65 and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	2	—	2	—
Total ..	17	—	15	—	32	—

HOUSING OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

During the year 7 cases were referred by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :—

Certificate No. 1. Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

Certificate No. 2. Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

Certificate No. 3. Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

The following is a summary of the cases dealt with during the year :—

Type of case	No. cases referred	No. cases re-housed
Certificate No. 1 ..	1	—
Certificate No. 2 ..	6	1
Certificate No. 3 ..	—	—
Total	7	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board caters for the needs of the District.

Hospital Facilities

These are the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

The main general hospitals are situated at Stratton St. Margaret (in the Highworth Rural District) and Swindon, which also provide accommodation for Maternity cases in a separate institution.

Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Area Isolation Hospital, Swindon, while the nearest Smallpox Hospital is located at Reading. Cases under the National Assistance Act, 1948 are admitted to Elm Court, Stratton St. Margaret.

Other Facilities

Arrangements for the following health services operating in the District are made by the County Health Committee :—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers, and young children;
 Domiciliary Midwifery ;
 Health Visiting ;
 Home Nursing ;
 Vaccination and immunisation ;
 Ambulances and ambulance cars ;
 Domestic helps ;
 Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act,
 for the prevention of illness, care and after-care ; and health
 education ;
 Mental Health Service.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is carried out by General Practitioners and County Council Medical Officers and the following table gives details for the year under review :—

Age Groups in years	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-15	Total under 15
Primary imms. completed during 1953	64	48	8	2	4	21	24	171
Reinforcing inj.s. administered during 1953	—	—	—	—	10	192	75	277
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec., 1953	11	97	158	208	182	* † 216/949	* † 398/541	2760

* Last treated before 31.12.48.

† Last treated since 1.1.49.

VACCINATION

Age Groups in years	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations	109	8	10	8	6
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	4	21

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47, Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

During the year an investigation was made into one case but no action was necessary.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1953

CONTENTS

HOUSING	PAGE
New houses erected	17
Inspections	17
Remedy of defects	17
Action under Statutory Powers	17
Overcrowding	18
Housing Act, 1949	19
Rural Housing Survey	19
Applications for Council houses	19
Provision of new houses	21
Inspection of Council houses	22
Temporary dwellings	23
 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936	
Nuisances	23
Verminous premises	23
Moveable dwellings	24
Smoke abatement	24
Drainage and Sewerage	24
Public Conveniences	25
Refuse collection and disposal	25
Salvage	26
Refuse and Salvage—collection and disposal costs	27
Infectious diseases	27
 FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938—1950	
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	27
Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949	28
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised) Regulations, 1949	28
Milk Sampling	28
Phosphatase Tests	29
Methylene Blue Tests	29
Ice Cream	29
Meat	30
Animals killed and examined	31
Condemned meat	32
Weights of condemned meat	33
Tuberculosis in calves	33

Casualties	....	.....	.....	34
Slaughter of Animals Act		.....	.....	34
Knackers Yard		.....	.....	34
Other foods	.....	.....	.....	35
Food premises		.....	.....	35
Food poisoning		.....	.....	36
Factories Act, 1937				
Types of premises		.....	.....	36
Inspections	.....	.....	.....	36
Defects	.....	.....	.....	37
Outworkers	.....	.....	.. ..	37
Water Supplies				
Sources	.....	.....	.....	38
Storage	.....	.....	.....	38
Distribution	.....	.....	.....	38
Sampling	.....	.....	.....	39
Houses and population supplied from public water mains		.....	.....	40
Houses and population supplied from private water mains		.....	.....	40
Temporary dwellings and population supplied from public water mains		.....	.....	41
Totals, percentages, etc., re. water supplies			.....	41
The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949				42
Petroleum Act and Regulations			.....	43
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits			.....	43
National Assistance Act	.....		.....	43
Dealers in Old Metal & Marine Store Dealers				43
Tabular Summary of Inspections made during the year				44

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND THE HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1953

To : The Chairman and Members of the Cricklade and Wootton
Bassett Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year
1953—

HOUSING

Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year

(a) By Local Authority	80
(b) Private Enterprise	15

Inspection of Dwellings during the year

(i) Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts ..	33
(ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	5
(iii) Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	5
(iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	22

Remedy of defects by Informal Action

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	16
---	----

Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts)

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Acts, 1936	
(i) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	—
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made	—
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	6
(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted	5
(iv)	Number of undertakings completed	5
(d)	Proceedings under Section 25 & 26 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of Houses on which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(e)	Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of separate tenancies or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit	—

Undertakings not to use 2 houses for human habitation but to use them as stores, and Undertakings not to use 4 houses for human habitation until rendered fit were given by the owners.

Five families were rehoused by the Council and one tenant was given the tenancy of an alms house in another district.

Six houses on which Demolition Orders had been made previous to 1953 were demolished. These houses had been vacant for some time.

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding

Number of overcrowded cases discovered in 1953 ..	1
Number of cases of overcrowding brought forward from 1952	15
Number of overcrowded cases abated during the year ..	7
Number of overcrowded cases at the end of the year 1953	9

There was a reduction of 6 cases of overcrowding in 1953, 5 cases having been abated by the Council rehousing either the families or married children of the householders living at home, and by one family obtaining possession of a larger house.

Housing Act, 1949

Four applications for grants for the improvement of 6 houses were received during the year. Two of the applications concerning 4 houses were approved and two applications were withdrawn by the applicants.

Rural Housing Survey

The survey of houses having a rateable value of £17 and under has steadily progressed and it is anticipated that the survey will be completed in 1954.

Details of the survey are as follows :—

(a)	Number of houses to be surveyed	3255
(b)	Number of houses inspected, measured and recorded during the year	206
(c)	Total number of houses inspected, measured and recorded to December 31st, 1953	2809
(d)	Number of houses measured but not yet inspected (not included in (b) or (c) above)	2

Categorisation of houses surveyed

CATEGORY

1—866 which is 31% of the number surveyed.

2—577 „ „ 20% „ „ „ „

3—904 „ „ 32% „ „ „ „

4—209 „ „ 8% „ „ „ „

5—253 „ „ 9% „ „ „ „

The interpretations of the categories are :—

1—Satisfactory in all respects.

2—Minor defects.

3—Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements.

4—Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing Acts, 1949 and 1952.

5—Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

Housing Applications

Although 80 council houses were erected during the year the decrease in the number of applicants on December 31st, 1953 compared with the number at the same time in 1952 was only 34.

If the applicant resides in the district the details given by his housing and relevant position are checked by visiting the premises before his application goes to the Selection Committee for their consideration.

This entails a considerable amount of work, besides which, there are a great number of personal interviews at the office and a considerable number of letters relating to council house applications have to be answered during the year.

Number of visits to premises re housing applications .. 596

HOUSING APPLICATIONS

PARISH	No. of applicants as on 31.12.53		Total No. of Applicants		Increase or decrease	No. of appli- cants who were over- crowded 31.12.53
	who are house- holders	who are in rooms	Dec. 31st '53	Dec. 31st '52		
Ashton Keynes	15	10	25	25	—	—
Braydon ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad Town ..	5	6	11	7	+ 4	—
Cricklade ..	74	19	93	78	+15	1
Clyffe Pypard ..	6	1	7	10	- 3	—
Latton	5	1	6	5	+ 1	—
Leigh	14	2	16	6	+10	1
Lydiard Millicent	16	9	25	27	- 2	—
Lydiard Tregoze	3	1	4	3	+ 1	—
Lynham ..	18	10	28	35	- 7	—
Marston Meysey	1	5	6	6	—	—
Purton ..	35	29	64	87	-23	1
Tockenham ..	2	—	2	2	—	—
Wootton Bassett	101	45	146	175	-29	1
Any parish ..	—	—	—	1	- 1	—
	295	138	433	467	-34	4

SIZES OF FAMILIES OF APPLICANTS

Man, Wife and						
No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	Over 5 Children
135	141	90	35	16	7	9
Percentage of the Total						
31.2	32.5	20.8	8.1	3.7	1.6	2.1

APPLICATIONS FOR AGED PERSON'S DWELLINGS

Parish	Number of Applicants on Dec. 31st, 1953			Total No. of appli- cants on December 31st 1952
	Married couples	Widows' Widowers and single persons	Total	
Cricklade ..	5	3	8	2
Purton ..	5	4	9	2
Wootton Bassett	17	10	27	18
	27	17	44	22

The number of applications for Aged Person's Dwellings increased by exactly 100% in twelve months.

Provision of New Houses

More council houses were built in 1953 than in any post-war year, 80 houses having been erected by the local authority. Fifteen houses were privately built and 128 were erected by the Air Ministry. The new council houses were sited as follows :—

Parish	New Traditional	Traditional	Aged Person's Dwellings	Total
Cricklade ..	10	8	6	24
Lydiard Millicent	—	6	—	6
Purton ..	8	—	—	8
Wootton Bassett	32	10	—	42
	50	24	6	80

There were 2 two-bedroom new traditional houses erected at Cricklade and 6 two-bedroom traditional houses at Wootton Bassett, 66 houses had 3 bedrooms and all the Aged Person's Dwellings had 2 bedrooms.

Excepting the 6 houses in Lydiard Millicent parish which were drained to a small sewage installation, all the houses and Aged Person's Dwellings were drained to the sewers.

The following table gives details of the number of houses in the district and shows the numbers of pre-war and post-war council houses. I have included in the total houses in Lyneham parish, the number of houses erected by the Air Ministry.

PARISHES	Total No. of houses	No. of Council Houses including Aged Person's Dwellings			% of houses owned by Local Authority
		Erected pre-war	Erected post-war	Total	
Ashton Keynes	269	17	18	35	13.0
Braydon ..	17	—	—	—	—
Broad Town ..	154	16	20	36	23.4
Clyffe Pypard ..	117	14	2	16	13.7
Cricklade ..	451	30	36	66	14.6
Latton	129	4	9	13	10.1
Leigh	89	10	14	24	27.0
Lydiard Millicent	257	28	12	40	15.6
Lydiard Tregoze	154	10	8	18	11.7
Lynham ..	*607	40	12	52	8.6
Marston Meysey	63	6	6	12	19.0
Purton	799	83	57	140	17.5
Tockenham ..	37	—	4	4	10.8
Wootton Bassett	1118	88	191	279	25.0
	4261	346	389	735	17.2

* Includes 320 Air Ministry houses.

Six council houses were sold to their tenants during the year. All were pre-war houses.

On December 31st, 1953 there was one council house to every 21 inhabitants and to every 6 houses (including Air Ministry houses), and one post-war council house had been built for every 40 inhabitants (including R.A.F. personnel).

Inspection of Council Houses

Inspections of council houses in order to obtain details of any overcrowding, keeping of animals, the condition in which the tenants keep their houses, the presence of vermin and the keeping of lodgers, have been carried out throughout the year. If repairs are required, a note is passed to the Surveyor acquainting him of the fact.

Reports in two instances of dirty houses were made to the Council and verbal requests to cleanse their houses were also made to three tenants. There were satisfactory results in four of the cases. One tenant vacated his house but left it in a very bad condition.

201 inspections were made.

Temporary Dwellings

There was a reduction in the number of temporary dwellings during the year. The remaining tenants at Cove House Camp, Ashton Keynes and Paul's Croft, Cricklade, were re-housed and all the tenants at Manor Flats, Wootton Bassett were given tenancies of council houses. Six tenants of huts at Blakehill and three at Lydiard Park were re-housed by the Council.

In March it was decided that no further applications for tenancies of huts at Blakehill would be accepted, and that as the tenants vacated the huts, they would not be re-let. In August, instructions were given for the sale of vacant huts.

The Council are allowed to nominate tenants for 25 of the Lydiard Park Huts which were converted and are controlled by Swindon Corporation.

The number of temporary dwellings on December 31st, 1953 was :—

Cricklade (Blakehill)	121
Lydiard Park	127
			<hr/>
			248

Number of visits to temporary dwellings	..	42
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Nuisances

No. of nuisances discovered	..	45
No. of nuisances abated	..	31
No. of inspections made for the purpose	..	169

Verminous Premises

Six houses were infested with fleas and were treated with DDT., DDT-Lindane smokes and Gammexane spray with satisfactory results.

One bedroom was treated with DDT Lindane as a precautionary measure after the lodger who occupied the room had left. The lodger had had head lice. The tenant of a new house asked for advice on the treatment of an infestation by insects. These were found to be harmless mites living on vegetation out of doors, but which had entered the new house.

Four council houses which were infested with cockroaches were successfully treated with Gammexane spray and DDT powder.

Number of visits to verminous premises	..	33
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Moveable Dwellings

The number of licences issued to station and use moveable dwellings more than doubled those issued in 1952. Twenty-seven licences were granted, 20 of these being new licences. There was no difficulty in obtaining water supplies to the caravans and no nuisances were created.

Number of visits re moveable dwellings	..	41
--	----	----

Smoke Abatement

A serious nuisance was created in May by the emission of smoke and grit from the boiler stack of the United Dairies Milk Factory, Wootton Bassett. The amount of grit and ash deposited in the immediate surroundings of the factory was very excessive. Meetings took place between a Council Committee, representatives of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, and the United Dairies Ltd. The representatives of the United Dairies stated that the Company were prepared to do all that they could to try to eliminate the trouble, and ultimately an order was placed by them for another grit arrester.

When the " flush " milk period ended and the need for working the boilers to capacity ceased, the excessive grit emission ended.

The new grit arrester had not been installed by the end of the year.

No. of visits re grit emission	9
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Drainage and Sewerage

Sewers serve the built up areas of the parishes of Cricklade, Purton, and Wootton Bassett, and there are also sewers constructed and owned by the Air Ministry serving the 320 houses occupied by R.A.F. personnel at Lyneham.

There are no public sewers in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Braydon, Broad Town, Clyffe Pypard, Latton, Leigh, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze, Lyneham, Marston Meysey, and Tockenham.

All the post-war council houses which are not served by public sewers are drained to small sewage installations. One of these installations is of the tippler distributor type, the rest being self dosing rotary arm type.

Two of the Council's sewage works consist of detritus chambers, settling tanks, filter beds and humus tanks, the effluent being discharged to streams. These are at Purton and Wootton Bassett. The Cricklade sewage works consists of detritus chamber and settling tanks, the effluent flowing on to the land (broad irrigation).

Number of houses served by W.C's and draining to cesspits	581
Number of houses served by pail closets and draining to cesspits	450
Total number of houses draining to cesspits	1031
Total number of houses draining to small sewage installations	86
Total number of houses connected to sewers	2083
Percentage of houses connected to sewers	48.89
Percentage of houses served by water closets and draining to cesspits	13.64
Percentage of houses draining to cesspits but having pail closets	10.56
Percentage of houses drained to cesspits	24.20
Percentage of houses drained to small sewage installations	2.02
Percentage of houses drained to sewers, small sewage installations and cesspits	75.10

(The above figures included Air Ministry houses but not temporary dwellings).

No of visits re drainage	47
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Public Conveniences

There is one public convenience which is situate at Wootton Bassett.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The work entailed in the collection and disposal of house refuse grows yearly as the number of houses increase, the increase in 1953 being 216.

There was shortage of labour for carrying out refuse collection and for approximately eight months there were 2 refuse loaders short, this meant that overtime had to be worked on three to four days every week in order to complete the collections.

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out throughout the district. The dustbins have to be placed at the kerbside by the householders.

Two 10 cubic yard Dennis refuse vehicles are used for scavenging work.

The refuse tip at Broad Leaze, Old Canal, Cricklade, became full and another tip was started at Ballickacre, Old Canal, Cricklade. Two other tips are in use at The Pry, Purton (old Canal) and at Wootton Bassett sewage works. The same drawback existed in 1953 as has been prevalent throughout previous years, viz., the lack of soil for tip covering.

As the result of frequent baiting, there is very little trouble caused by rats, and regular treatment of the tip by tip dressing is carried out so as to keep down insects.

No. of visits re public cleansing 172

Salvage

Salvageable waste materials consisting of waste paper, scrap iron and rags have been collected during the year. At one period great difficulty was experienced in carrying on with the collection of waste paper, owing to the fact that no outlet could be found for the sale of the paper. However, when waste paper salvage had nearly come to a stop, I was fortunate in finding merchants who would purchase the paper, but the prices bid for the paper in stock were very low.

The collection of waste paper is made at the same time as refuse is collected, trailers attached to the refuse vehicles being used for the purpose.

Details of the sales of waste materials are set out as follows :—

Waste Material	Weight			Receipts		
	t.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper ..	63	16	1	212	8	1
Scrap Iron ..	7	10	0	19	9	0
Non-ferrous metals		8	1	18	5	6
Textiles	1	16	1	31	19	10
	73	10	3	282	2	5

No. of visits re salvage 34

Refuse and Salvage—Collection and Disposal Costs

(Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953)

Cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal	£3279	17	1
Receipts—refuse and salvage	£183	0	4
Cost of refuse and salvage collection and disposal to General Rate Fund	£3096	16	9
Net cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal per habitable house (including temporary and Air Ministry houses) ..		13/8.83	
Net cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal per head of population		3/11.83	
Mileage of refuse vehicles—(Year ended Dec. 31st 1953) :—			
No. 1 vehicle	8540		
No. 2 vehicle	8264		
Running costs of refuse vehicles per mile (Year ended Dec. 31st, 1953) :—			
No. 1 vehicle	1/0.97		
No. 2 vehicle	1/3.07		
Miles per gallon (Year ended Dec. 31st, 1953) :—			
No. 1 vehicle	7.66		
No. 2 vehicle	7.32		

Infectious Diseases

There was very little infectious disease during 1953 and only three cases, all poliomyelitis patients, were removed to hospital.

No of visits re infectious diseases	23
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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 — 1950

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The part of the above regulations dealing with the presence of disease amongst cattle or operatives on dairy farms is the only concern of the Council apart from the registration and surveillance of milk producers who are not producer retailers. If infectious disease occurs in the families or workers of producers of milk, arrangements are made to have the milk pasteurised and the milker taken off dairy work until the danger ceases. In this way there is a dual precaution in that the main supply is pasteurised and the supply of raw milk to the farmer's and worker's families is reasonably safe from the disease. Checks back to the farm have been made when *Cysticereus Bovis* in bovines has been reported from surrounding slaughterhouses. No Anthrax on farms has been reported during the year.

There has been an increase during the year of milk distributors who have ceased to handle raw milk in bulk and have continued their deliveries by receiving bottled pasteurised milk direct from large bottling plants in the county. In these cases the dairy in question changes from a bottling establishment to a room provided with a storage refrigerator for any carry over supplies. Set out hereunder will be found totals from the various registers :—

No. of Milk Distributors on the register	14
No. of Distributors Dairies on the register	9
No. of inspections made under the Regulations	14

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

No. of Dealers licences issued authorising the use of the special designation " Tuberculin Tested "	9
No. of supplementary licences issued authorising the use of the special designation " Tuberculin Tested "	3

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

No. of Dealers licences issued authorising the use of the special designation " Pasteurised "	4
No. of supplementary licences issued authorising the use of the special designation " Pasteurised "	2

Milk Sampling

The number of samples of milk taken during the year was practically doubled: 106 samples were taken from distributors, producer retailers in the district, and two producer retailers whose premises are outside the district. Of these samples 27 were submitted for biological examination, but three guinea pigs died and repeat samples had to be taken. The number of these samples submitted for the Methylene Blue tests (Keeping Quality) was 103, while 3 were submitted for the Phosphatase test (check on adequate pasteurisation) and 2 for a check for B. Abortus. It should be explained that a fair proportion of the samples were divided at the laboratory for dual purpose testing e.g. biological and Methylene Blue or Phosphatase and Methylene Blue. The total number of samples taken from producer retailers was 45 of which 16 were unsatisfactory, but it must be pointed out that the Council since 1949 has had no direct control over these producers at the farm. Unsatisfactory results are reported to the County Milk Production Officer. Where a supply was found on sampling to be unsatisfactory on Methylene Blue test " follow up " samples were taken. A check was made on the cleanliness of milk bottles, a specimen bottle being submitted to the analyst and found to be satisfactory. There was one positive result in the 27 samples submitted for biological examination. The sample was taken from a producer retailer in the district and immediate

steps were taken to have this supply replaced. This was done by making arrangements with the dairy company, which was collecting the surplus milk, to take the whole supply and to replace with pasteurised milk up to the quantity required for retail. The Ministries of Agriculture and Food were notified forthwith and the Ministry Veterinary Officer had an infected cow slaughtered eight days later. Clearance to normal working was given when the Veterinary Officer had received negative results on the tests on the other cows in the herd.

Phosphatase Tests

The three samples checked for adequate pasteurisation were all found to be satisfactory.

Methylene Blue Tests										
Satisfactory Not reduced after		Unsatisfactory								
		Decolourised at								
4½ hrs.	5½ hrs.	5 hrs.	4½ hrs.	4 hrs.	3½ hrs.	3 hrs.	2½ hrs.	2 hrs.	1½ hrs.	1 hr.
40	30	2	3	8	2	2	4	5	5	2
Total No. of samples—103					Satisfactory 70			68%		
					Unsatisfactory 33			32%		
N.B. In winter Methylene Blue should not be reduced under 5½ hrs.										
In summer Methylene Blue should not be reduced under 4½ hrs.										

Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and 2 premises for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream. All traders with storage licences only sold the pre-packed article supplied by manufacturers producing outside the district.

The two manufacturing premises produce loose ice cream for sale at seasonable times, one by the cold mix method and the other by the hot mix method.

Regular visits were made and samples were taken from these manufactories and check samples were taken of the pre-packed brands sold within the district but manufactured elsewhere.

Manufacturer	Provisional Grading			
	1	2	3	4
A	2	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100	—	—	—
B	1	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100	—	—	—
C	1	1	1	—
Percentage ..	$33\frac{1}{3}$	$33\frac{1}{3}$	$33\frac{1}{3}$	—
D	2	2	—	—
Percentage ..	50	50	—	—
E	2	1	—	—
Percentage ..	$66\frac{2}{3}$	$33\frac{1}{3}$	—	—
F	—	2	—	1
Percentage ..	—	$66\frac{2}{3}$	—	$33\frac{1}{3}$
G	—	2	—	—
Percentage ..	—	100	—	—
Totals ..	8	8	1	1
Percentages ..	44.4%	44.4%	5.6%	5.6%

In all 18 samples of ice cream were taken, all of which were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test. B. Coli checks were made on 10 samples. The results and percentages of the Methylene Blue tests are set out above. Of the 10 samples checked for the presence of B. Coli., non faecal type B. Coli were present in 3 samples and faecal type B. Coli in one. Whenever samples were unsatisfactory the producers were visited or the information passed on to the public health department serving the area in which the particular brand was produced.

Meat

During 1953 a total of 25,448 animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Hook slaughterhouse. Inspection has been 100% involving a considerable amount of the time of Mr. Cox and myself. Animals are brought to this slaughterhouse from a very wide area extending from Swindon as far as Frome and Glastonbury, and also to Cirencester and Gloucester.

The practice of notifying the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Inspectors of calves condemned for congenital tuberculosis where the animals have the necessary identification label attached to the skins, has been carried out throughout the year.

The number of animals killed in 1953 was 13 less than the number in 1952.

No. of visits to and inspections made at the slaughterhouse 362

No. of visits to and inspections made at butcher's shops .. 6

Animals killed and Carcases examined

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No. of animals killed . .	—	24770	18	660	25448
No. of animals examined	—	24770	18	660	25448

97.3% of the animals were calves.

Condemned Meat

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
Condemned for Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses	—	36	—	—	36
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	13	—	—	13
Total number of animals affected with Tuberculosis	—	49	—	—	49
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with Tuberculosis	—	0.19	—	—	0.19
Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses	—	122	—	1	123
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1230	13	79	1322
Total number of animals affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	—	1352	13	80	1445
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	—	5.31	0.05	0.31	5.67
Condemned for all Diseases					
Whole carcasses	—	158	—	1	159
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1243	13	79	1335
Total number of animals affected with disease ..	—	1401	13	80	1494
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with disease ..	—	5.51	0.05	0.31	5.87

Weights of Condemned Meat

	Condemned in slaughterhouse				Condemned in shops			
	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Beef	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	21
Veal	3	8	2	5	—	—	—	—
Pork and Bacon	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	18
Mutton and Lamb	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—
Offal	1	6	1	14	—	—	—	—
	4	16	1	6	—	2	1	11

	Condemned for Tuberculosis				Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis			
	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
Beef	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	21
Veal	—	16	—	14	2	12	1	19
Pork and Bacon	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	25
Mutton and Lamb	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
Offal	—	3	—	2	1	3	1	12
	—	19	—	16	3	19	2	1
Percentage of the total of condemned meat	19.40				80.60			

Tuberculosis in Calves

36 calves were condemned for congenital tuberculosis during the year and of this number 6 were not notified to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries owing to the market labels having become detached. Of the other 30 cases, the dams of 25 were found to be tubercular and were destroyed. One dam was untraceable and 4 were not affected with tuberculosis. The percentage of the 29 traceable dams affected with tuberculosis was 86%. There was 19% of the dams of the affected calves which could not be traced.

There was an increase of 2 over the 1952 figure of the calves found to be affected with tuberculosis with an increase in the percentage of calves affected of 0.01. Although the increase in percentage is very small, it is the first increase since 1948.

Year	No. of calves killed	No. of tubercular calves	Percentage of calves affected with tuberculosis
1940	14095	102	0.72
1941	13588	116	0.85
1942	15190	104	0.68
1943	15293	90	0.59
1944	16702	82	0.49
1945	16985	101	0.60
1946	20231	95	0.47
1947	22002	86	0.39
1948	20184	91	0.45
1949	19313	68	0.35
1950	21397	71	0.33
1951	21929	64	0.29
1952	24360	47	0.19
1953	24770	49	0.20

Casualties

There was a decrease in the number of carcasses brought to and animals killed at the slaughterhouse as "casualties". The percentage of animals killed as casualties was 0.65.

					Casualties
Cattle	..	..	..	..	—
Calves	..	..	..	..	136
Pigs ..	..	..	..	..	18
Sheep	..	..	..	..	12
					—
					166
					—

Slaughter of Animals Act

There were 22 licensed slaughtermen in the district on December 31st, 1953.

Knackers Yard

There is one licensed knackers yard, but nothing was killed there during the year.

Other Foods

During the year condemnations of the following quantities of unsound food were made and the food was surrendered voluntarily for destruction.

			Tins	lbs.
Corned Beef .. ..	..	..	10	14
Tinned Ham .. ..	..	..		17
Pork Brawn .. ..	..	..	4	3
Luncheon Meat .. ..	..	..	5	13
Beef Loaf .. ..	..	..	1	1
Tomatoes .. ..	..	..	4	2
Evaporated Milk .. ..	..	..	3	2
Peas .. ..	..	..	2	2
Sardines .. ..	..	..	1	1
Pears .. ..	..	..	1	2
Plums .. ..	..	..	1	2
Pineapples .. ..	..	..	2	2
Jam .. ..	..	..	1	1
				—
				62 lbs.
				—

Food Premises

Visits have been made to premises where food is prepared, handled or stored as follows :—

No. of visits to	ice cream premises	..	34
” ” ” ”	bakehouses	..	36
” ” ” ”	fishmongers	..	1
” ” ” ”	fried fish shops	..	2
” ” ” ”	grocers and fruiterers	..	18
” ” ” ”	cafés and other food pre- paring premises	..	28
<hr/>			
Total visits to food premises	..	..	119

The number of premises which are required to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the preparation and manufacture of food for sale was 41. All of these premises were satisfactory.

Only one bakehouse was found to be unsatisfactory. This was in the matter of general cleanliness and there was also a broken lavatory basin. A change of employee took place since when there has been a great improvement. One baker closed his business in 1953.

Food Poisoning

Enquiries were made into five cases of suspected food poisoning. In all cases only one member of the family was affected and the causes of the food poisoning could not be traced. In one instance, three excretal specimens were submitted for analysis from each member of the family, in other instances excretal specimens were obtained from the patients only. In only one case could the samples of the actual food that had been eaten, be obtained, but no harmful organisms were isolated in this sample.

No. of visits re food poisoning	8
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FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a list of the various types of premises registered under the above Act :—

Aircraft maintenance shops	..	..	..	..	1
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	11
Builders and Carpenters	..	..	..	..	10
Blacksmiths shops	..	..	..	..	2
Brickworks	..	..	..	..	1
Condensed and evaporated milk manufactory	..				1
Dental manufactory	..	..	..	..	1
Dried milk manufactory	..	..	..	..	1
Egg grading depot	..	..	..	..	1
Engineering shops	..	..	..	..	5
Gas works	..	..	..	..	2
Glove works	..	..	..	..	1
Grass drying plants	..	..	..	..	2
Joinery works	..	..	..	..	1
Laundries	..	..	..	..	1
Local authority workshops	..	..	..	..	1
Motor and cycle repair shops		..	..	..	18
Potters and Weavers	..	..	..	..	1
Rope works	..	..	..	..	1
Saw mills	..	..	..	..	3
Sausage makers	..	..	..	..	1
Waterworks	..	..	..	..	2
					<hr/>
					68
					<hr/>

Inspections

- (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities :—

No. on register	..	..	..	..	10
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	6
No. of written notices	..	..	..	..	1
No. of occupiers prosecuted		..	..	..	—

(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority :—

No. on register	..	..	..	..	58
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	55
No. of written notices	..	..	..	..	3
No. of occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	..	—

Defects

Cases in which defects were found :—

	Found	Remedied
Sanitary conveniences :—		
unsuitable or defective	.. .. 8	5

Outworkers

Wearing apparel—making of :—

No. of outworkers :—

Ashton Keynes	..	..	..	..	7
Cricklade	..	..	..	..	12
Leigh	..	..	..	..	1
Lydiard Tregoze	..	..	..	..	1
Outside the district	..	..	..	..	2

WATER SUPPLIES

There was again no report of water shortage during 1953.

The district is indeed fortunate in having the main water supply at Ashton Keynes of such a high degree of purity.

Two samples taken from the Broad Town supply were unfit and one was “suspicious” but these samples were of unchlorinated water. The one unfit sample of Thornhill water was taken after chlorination and a check of the chlorination was taken immediately.

The chemical samples of Broad Town and Thornhill supplies were fit for drinking purposes. These samples were taken at premises where complaints had been made in 1952 of copper contamination owing to the use of copper pipes and the analyst was asked to make tests for this contamination. He reported that the amount of copper in solution was not enough to make the water unsatisfactory.

None of the water used for public supply has plumbo-solvent action.

There were 110 houses connected to the public supply during 1953 and 7 houses disconnected (demolition, etc.) Of the 110 connections, there were 14 houses to which water services were laid as the result of informal action.

Sources

The chief source of water supply is from a borehole 300 feet deep and lined to a depth of 173 feet, situate at Ashton Keynes.

Other sources are situate at Broad Town, Thornhill and Clyffe Pypard, and a private supply provides water to a small number of houses and farms at Clyffe Pypard. All these sources have small yields compared with the Ashton Keynes supply.

Storage

Storage of water is provided throughout the district as detailed below :—

	Gallons
Reservoir at Hook	500,000
Reservoir at Cricklade	60,000
Elevated tank at Wootton Bassett	50,000
Underground tanks at Clyffe Pypard	35,000
Elevated tank at Ashton Keynes	20,000
Elevated tank at Purton (Pavenhill)	20,000
Underground tank at Purton (The Heading) ..	17,000
Elevated tank at Bradenstoke	12,000
Underground tank at Broad Town	10,000
	<hr/>
	724,000
	<hr/>

Distribution

The reservoir at Hook provides the greatest storage capacity. Water is pumped from Ashton Keynes to this reservoir and also to the tank at Ashton Keynes and Cricklade reservoir. The Hook reservoir feeds the Wootton Bassett and Purton tanks, a tank situate at the R.A.F. Station, Lyneham, and if desired it can also feed the Ashton Keynes tank. The tank at Bradenstoke is fed from the R.A.F. tank at Lyneham.

A booster station was erected during the year on the main to Lyneham and has helped the supply to the aerodrome and Bradenstoke considerably.

Water is supplied to every parish from the storage tanks.

Water Sampling

Water used for public supply was regularly sampled during the year, 29 samples having been taken from the 4 sources.

In addition 33 water samples were submitted for analysis from wells serving private houses.

The results of analysis of the water samples are shewn below :—

	Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes
Taken from public supplies at				
Ashton Keynes	6	—	—	—
Broad Town ..	6	2 1 (suspicious)	1	—
Thornhill ..	6	1	1	—
Clyffe Pypard	6	—	—	—
	24	3 1 (suspicious)	2	—
Taken from private supplies in the parish of				
Ashton Keynes	1	—	—	—
Broad Town ..	1	—	—	—
Lydiard Millicent	2	—	—	—
Lydiard Tregoze	5	—	—	—
Lyneham ..	—	16	—	—
Purton ..	2	3	—	—
Tockenham ..	1	—	—	—
Wootton Bassett	1	1	—	—
	13	20	—	—

Houses and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Ashton Keynes ..	228	786		
Braydon ..	15	52		
Broad Town ..	115	396		
Clyffe Pypard ..	66	227		
Cricklade ..	426	1468		
Latton	71	245		
Leigh	84	289		
Lydiard Millicent	242	834		
Lydiard Tregoze	105	362		
Lyneham ..	537	1851		
Marston Meysey	43	148		
Purton	742	2557		
Tockenham ..	41	141		
Wootton Bassett	1085	3739	11	38
	3800	13095	11	38

Houses and Population supplied from Private Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Broad Town ..	5	17		
Clyffe Pypard ..	29	100		
	34	117		

Temporary Dwellings and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to temporary dwellings		Water supplied by means of standpipes on the sites	
	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population
Cricklade .. Lydiard Tregoze	121	417		
	127	438		
	248	855		

Totals, Percentages, etc. re Water Supplies to Dwellings

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

(i) Into or on to premises	3,800
(ii) By means of a standpipe	11
	<hr/> 3,811

ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS (INCLUDING POPULATION OF TEMPORARY DWELLINGS)

(i) Into or on to premises	13,950
(ii) By means of a standpipe	38
	<hr/> 13,988

Total number of **houses** supplied from water mains
(public and private) 3,845

Total estimated **population**, including population of
temporary dwellings, supplied from water mains
(public and private) 14,105

Percentage of **houses** supplied from **public** water mains 89.44

Percentage of **houses** supplied from **private** water mains 0.80

Percentage of **houses** supplied from **water mains** .. 90.24

Percentage of the **estimated population** supplied from
public water mains 90.01

Percentage of the **estimated population** supplied from **private** water mains 0.75

Percentage of the **estimated population** supplied from **water mains** 90.76

No. of visits re water supplies :—

Public supplies 52

Private supplies 55

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The free service given to householders for the destruction of rats and mice has been continued and proves to be a great advantage in carrying out work under this Act.

I am pleased to report that co-operation between farmers and owners of business premises has been forthcoming and a number of them are carrying out treatment themselves with the new poison "Warfarin." It has not been necessary to serve notice for anyone to rid their premises of rats or mice.

Again this year, baiting at various points on the sewers at Cricklade and Purton proved them to be free from rats, and rats were found at only two points on the Wootton Bassett sewers.

The refuse tips at Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett are kept under observation and treatment keeps the rat population to a very small number.

There were fairly heavy infestations of mice at the paper salvage shed and at one house, but were soon dealt with satisfactorily.

There was a great increase in the number of visits to agricultural premises.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling House	Agricultural	Business	
No. of properties inspected					
(a) after notification ..	—	33	6	8	47
(b) by search	12	519	106	56	693
Total properties inspected	12	552	112	64	740
No. of properties infested by rats	9	152	30	18	209
No. of properties infested by mice	1	18	—	1	20
No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	10	170	30	19	229

Total number of visits made under the Prevention of
 Damage by Pests Act 2259
 Of the properties inspected 28.2% were infested by rats and
 2.7% by mice.

PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

The number of visits made to premises storing petroleum were more than double the number made in 1952.

A new tank, which had to be specially made, was installed to replace a tank which was put out of use late in 1952 as the result of the failure of an air test on it.

Notices served on the owners of 28 petrol installations to comply with certain of the Council's general conditions for storing petrol, were complied with.

There were 6 new petroleum installations.

No. of licences issued to store petroleum	58
No. of licences issued to store petroleum and carbide	1
No. of licences issued to store carbide	1
No. of inspections of installations and store places ..	122

Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits

As the result of the subject of the complaint not having been mentioned in letters from inhabitants of the district, a number of visits were made to premises when it was found that the matter was no concern of the Council. Visits have also been made in connection with matters only vaguely concerned with public health. All these visits have been entered as miscellaneous sanitary visits.

No. of miscellaneous sanitary visits	25
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National Assistance Act

Two visits were made in company with your Medical Officer of Health to an elderly lady living alone. Although the woman was feeble minded, she was very spritely and no action was taken.

Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers

The Council adopted Section 86 Public Health Act, 1907 and an Order called the Old Metal Dealers Order, 1953 declared the above Section of the above Act to be in force in the district on January 12th, 1953.

Section 86 Public Health Act, 1907 requires registration of every person carrying on business as an old metal or marine store dealer, his place of abode, and also the premises used for the purpose. The person registered must enter in a book kept by him, the description and price of all articles purchased or acquired, and the name and address and occupation of the person from whom the same were purchased or acquired.

No. of dealers in old metals on the register	5
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TABULAR SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR, 1953

Water supply	107
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Offensive trades	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dealers in old metals		..	..	..	..	..	1
Swimming pool	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Temporary dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Tents, vans and sheds		..	..	..	..	..	41
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
National Assistance Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Council house inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	201
Refuse collections	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Refuse disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
Damage by Pests Act		..	..	..	..	..	2259
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	169
Salvage	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Housing (inspection and repairs)	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Miscellaneous Housing visits (enquiries etc., re housing applications)	..	..	..	..	..	..	596
Rural Housing Survey	..	..	..	..	..	..	197
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Meat inspection :—							
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
Other premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Food preparing premises (cafés, etc.)		..	..	..	..	..	28
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Fishmongers and fried fish shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Grocers and greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Ice cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Milk sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	103
Food poisoning	8
Smoke Abatement	9
Petrol installations	122
Miscellaneous visits	25
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